



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes October 11, 2017

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on October 11, 2017, in Council Chambers in City Hall in Austin, Texas.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Acuna called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Gerry Acuna, Amanda Masino, Shana Joyce, Joshua Blaine, Cathy Gattuso, Blythe Christopher de Orive, Kendra Bones, Rick Rojo, Kaiba White.

Staff in attendance: Sam Angoori, Tammie Williamson, Richard McHale, Ron Romero, Michael Sullivan, Donald Hardee, Emlea Chanslor, Brent Paige, Amy Slagle.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Andrew Dobbs – Texas Campaign for the Environment Conveyed concern about issuance of Austin Water Utility RFP for Biosolids at Hornsby Bend

Brad Parsons – Curbside compost bins- As a customer it is working well and the value is reasonable

2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2017 MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the August 9, 2017 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Blaine and seconded by Commissioner Bones. The motion to approve the minutes passed 8-0 with Commissioners Joyce and Gattuso absent.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

3. OLD BUSINESS

3c. CodeNEXT – Update on staff-recommended revisions to proposed draft code.
This item was taken up out of order.

One member of the public signed up to speak on this item.

Jason McCombs, ARR, presented the item and took questions from the commission.

Eric Goff, Compost Peddlers - Spoke on the item and recommended improved receptacle placement and update of parking space requirements to meet URO requirements.

Commissioner White made a motion to recommend that a provision be added that parking requirements can be waived for the specific purpose of adding a recycling and organics collection capacity at multi-family properties, Hoffman seconds.

Commissioner Masino noted that she would submit the comments provided at the meeting through the CodeNEXT portal.

d. Office of Performance Management Review – receive an update on the current review of ARR.

This item was taken up out of order.

No members signed up to speak on this item.

Sam Angoori, ARR, presented the item and noted there was no update but agreed to retain this on the agenda going forward at the request of Chair Acuna.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

a. Director's Report – General Updates: Mattress Recycling Options, ARR Assistance to City of Houston, Composting Service Update. City Council Actions, Statistical Reports and Performance Measures.

This item was taken up out of order.

b. Solicitations Update

Brent Paige, ARR, presented the item and took questions from the commission. Chair Acuna thanked staff for the effort.

Commissioner White asked to have ZWAC review the RFI in a public meeting before the bid is issued.

Hoffman – asked for a standing review of RFI process on agenda.

Commissioner Blaine asked staff to confirm that staff will come back to the ZWAC with the procurement prior to the RCA going to Council and Ms. Williamson said yes that it would.

3a. Council Working Group – Review recommendations from City Council's Waste Management Policy Working Group.

6 members of the public signed up to speak on this item.

Andrew Dobbs signed up and presented recommendations

Adam Gregory, Texas Disposal Systems – bring back cost analysis, landfill criteria, modified local business presence definition. ZWAC would like to see Scopes prior to issuance.

Chair Acuna- Discussed Resolution to maintain suspension of Anti-Lobbying Ordinance (ALO) until Council approved rules are in effect. No action taken.

Bob Gregory, CEO and Principle Owner, Texas Disposal Systems- Request of ZWAC to not approve either ALO Request for Proposal

Michael Whellan, Texas Disposal Systems- Advised the Ethics Review Commission voted to send ALO to Chapter 2-7 Working Group.

Chair Acuna – submitted a draft rec. suggesting keeping ALO in a suspended state.

The Commission discussed the recommendation language and developed a new version from the discussion. The Commission made the following recommendation regarding the Anti-Lobbying Ordinance (ALO).

Description of Recommendation to Council

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission registers a serious concern that the recommendations of the Waste Management Policy Working Group are not well reflected in the drafted changes to the Anti-Lobbying Ordinance (ALO) and recommends adoption of the changes to the ALO detailed below:

- A guarantee that rulemaking will have an element of ongoing public participation, with rules ultimately brought back to the Ethics Review Commission (ERC) and Council for final review and approval.
- Specific mention in the ordinance of a right to appeal all disqualifications and other penalties or determinations to the ERC and ultimately Council.
- Clarification that only Council may void a contract for violation for the ALO.
- Striking all sections which empower staff to require recusal of elected or appointed City officials.
- Assurance that the ordinance will not consider public communications to be in any way a violation.
- Assurance that independent advocacy from non-respondents will not be used to disqualify respondents.
- Definition of the term “response.”
- Clarification of subjective terms such as “influences,” “persuades,” “advances the interests,” or “discredits.” At minimum we recommend that you direct staff to provide objective standards for these terms as part of their rulemaking.
- Eliminate or delineate the power of purchasing officers to determine “mitigating factors” in violations.
- Replace disqualification for “similar” projects with a disqualification for the SAME project.”
- Continue to keep the Anti-lobby Ordinance in a suspended state until such time that both the final ALO and subsequent governing Rules are drafted and adopted by Council.

Commissioner Blaine made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Commissioner Bones seconded. The recommendation was unanimously approved 8-0 with Commissioners Joyce and Gattuso absent.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- Committees and Working Groups** - recent updates from committees and potential new committee assignments and/or working groups. Commissioner Bones left her seat on the Universal Recycling Ordinance, Commissioner White replaced her and stayed on Organics Committee. The changes were adopted to no objection from the commission with Commissioners Joyce and Gattuso absent.
- 2018 Calendar** - Approve schedule of ZWAC meeting dates for 2018 calendar year. Commissioner Masino mad a motion to approve the schedule with a second from Commissioner Hoffman. The motion was approved 8-0 with Commissioners Joyce and Gattuso absent.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- Director’s Report** – General Updates: Mattress Recycling Options, ARR Assistance to City of Houston, Composting Service Update. City Council Actions, Statistical Reports and Performance Measures.

No members of the public signed up to speak on this item.

Chair Acuna noted a recent article in the WSJ. Asked staff to look at recycling markets and ask what can be done to increase efficiencies at the local level in response to a stagnant market.

Commissioner Blaine noted differences in the contractor payments listed in the statistical reports presented and Mr. Angoori suggested bringing comparison info back at a later meeting to look at both recycling contracts and discuss the variables involved.

Richard McHale, ARR, presented the mattress recycling and Houston debris recovery effort item and took questions from the commission. Mr. McHale noted ARR will wind down efforts in Houston on October 15, which is now earlier than thought. Mr. McHale noted that ARR will adjust our bulk pickup to accommodate routes missed for the effort to assist Houston, and ARR will be reimbursed for the expenses involved from Houston, who will seek FEMA reimbursement.

Commissioner Masino asked about hazardous waste encountered in the effort. Mr. McHale noted if HHW was encountered it was separated from the other debris.

The discussion ended and no action was taken on the item.

b. Weekly Recycling Cost Analysis

This item was postponed until November ZWAC meeting to no objection from the commission.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Add Working Group Recommendations to future agenda items. Note that the vote was to postpone, not no action taken.

Landfill matrix
Special events
Organics update

Angoori – in February there will be a waste characterization study of the 52K homes and how it's working.

Commissioner White- can we get an update on educational efforts involved in rollout.

Commissioner Blaine- Set out ratios

Biosolids update requested by Acuna – Masino confirmed Michael sent the letter but felt it wasn't the most productive way to deal with it.

Upcoming contracts

Commissioner White- full electric trucks; Angoori acknowledged staff is researching and will provide and update in January.

Hoffman asked that cost per ton be added to Director's Report

Commissioner Rojo- Committee working group updates

Weekly recycling

ADJOURNMENT A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Bones, and the meeting was adjourned by Chair Acuna at 9:30pm to no objection.